

Remarks

In the application, claims 42 through 59 are currently pending. No claims have been allowed.

The non-final Office Action dated August 31, 2007, has been carefully considered. The non-final Office Action rejects claims 1 through 3, 7, 8, 10 through 13, 15, 16, 20, 23, 24, 28, 29, and 38 through 41 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,645,459 ("Graf"). Claim 25 is rejected as anticipated by U.S. Published Patent Application US 2003/0059743 A1 ("Lechner"). Claims 6, 9, 17 through 19, 21, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious in light of Graf and U.S. Patent 6,146,143 ("Huston"). Claim 14 is rejected as obvious in light of Graf.

§§ 102, 103 Rejections

In order to expedite prosecution, all previously pending claims are cancelled, without prejudice, rendering the previous rejections moot. Those rejections have, however, been carefully considered in drafting the new claims. The new claims focus the prosecution on particular embodiments taught by the specification. The Applicants expressly reserve their right to pursue other embodiments in one or more continuation applications.

New Claims

New independent claim 42 is supported by the specification at, for example, paragraphs [0025] through [0030], by Figure 2, and in particular by paragraph [0056]:

The template 222 is provided to the game developer 130. The template 222 is used by the computer game developer 130 in a similar manner as an actual geographic database would be used. The computer game developer 130 uses the template 222 data, along with other data and components, to create one or more computer games 132.

New independent claim 59 is a Beauregard version of claim 42. No new matter is introduced by these claims.

In the method of claim 42, a map developer produces a source geographic database that represents a locale in the real world. From data in the source geographic database, the map developer creates a new database (called the "template geographic database") to represent an imaginary geographic locale. The map developer then provides (e.g., sells, licenses, or leases) this template geographic database to a game developer. The game developer adds other game-related components to data from the template geographic database to make a computer game.

Nothing in the cited art teaches or suggests this aspect of producing a *real-world* geographic database, transforming it to represent an *imaginary locale*, and then providing the transformed database to a game developer distinct from the map developer. Graf in particular teaches a method for creating a database that represents a geographic locale, but Graf does not use one database representing a real-world locale to create a second database representing a different, imaginary-world, locale. Graf also does not teach a game developer working with a distinct map developer.

The new dependent claims 43 through 58 recite aspects of embodiments supported by the specification. They are patentable over the cited art for at least the reasons stated above for the independent claims.

Extension of Time

This amendment is accompanied by a petition for extension of time and authorization for payment of the fee associated therewith.

Conclusion

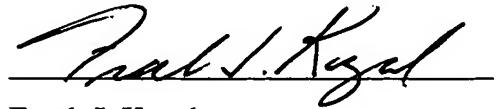
The cited art neither anticipates nor renders obvious the currently pending claims. Thus, this application is considered to be in good and proper form for allowance, and the Applicants

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request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections and pass this application on to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the Applicants' representative at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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